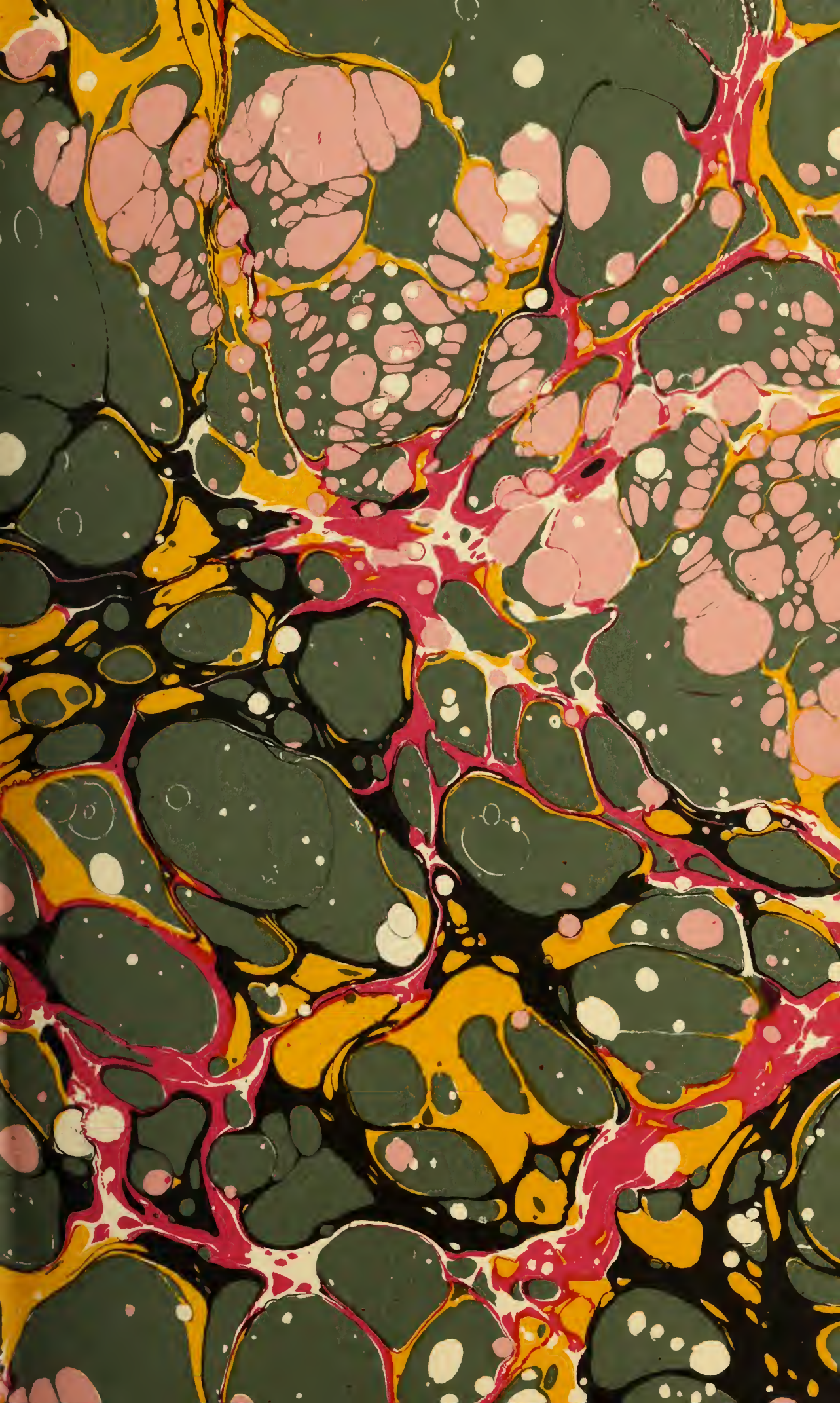


Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

https://archive.org/details/onmaritimerights00eden

ON THE

MARITIME RIGHTS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

1807.

T. BURTON, PRINTER, 31, LITTLE QUEEN STREET, HOLBORN.

ADDRESS to the PEOPLE:

ON THE

MARITIME RIGHTS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

AMONG the many blessings which have fallen to the lot of this happy island it possesses this singular advantage, that, *in periods of public danger, an appeal to the understandings of the people is sufficient to produce that union of sentiment which in other countries cannot be created without flattering their prejudices.* This is the result of the political education in which you all more or less participate. The British Constitution, from its very nature, leads you to in-

vestigate the various acts of government affecting you either individually or collectively: and thus schooled, as you every day are, in the discussion of public measures, you may be addressed as a *thinking* people, who are not guided by the flashy passions of the moment in their commendations or their censure. Few great national questions can be brought before you which you have not previously weighed and examined: and the consequence is that, as your estimate of difficulties is usually correct, your exertions to overcome them are in general persevering.

In taking a fair view of your present situation you will feel that the qualities, here ascribed to you, may be advantageously employed in averting those perils to which our colonies, our commerce, our naval power, and even the independence of the country, are exposed, from the secret machinations, rather than the open force, of the enemy. Never was there a period in which you were more imperiously called on to discharge the duties imposed on you as a free, unconquered, high-minded, nation; but, be it also recollected for your comfort, never was there a period in which you were summoned to discharge those duties, under circumstances less calculated to distract your judgment or to fetter your conduct. All you do may, and must, be influenced by considerations only of moral right, self-preservation, and security. No complex theories respecting the ancient system of European balances, no scrupulous forbearance to pursue British objects which may interfere with continental

tinental interests, no financial embarrassments at home resulting from subsidiary engagements abroad, no apprehensions of scarcity in consequence of a bad harvest, not even the murmurs of party politics, are now, in any degree, to be dreaded as impediments which should arrest (as they too often have arrested) the progress of the country in her endeavours to maintain her dignity and assert her rights. France, undoubtedly has extended her power: but you possess ample means of defence which are peculiarly your own. Nor will the state of subjugated Europe appal you when you reflect under what circumstances its conquest has been atchieved by Bonaparte. Availing himself of the talents, which it was the natural effect of the French Revolution to call forth, he has indeed conquered all the small states, and humbled the great monarchies; most effectually humbled them, by subduing the minds of their rulers: but had Austrians or Prussians equal inducements with Britons to hazard their existence rather than submit to the invader? In general, they remained indifferent spectators of the conflict: the fate of their country was decided by regular armies; and (as might reasonably have been expected) revolutionary ability triumphed over ancient tactics. In free countries, a very different, and more efficient, system of defence can be adopted: and in all, where a general feeling can be excited, the people may usefully co-operate with the army. Such has been the case with Germany in former times; and two remarkable instances occur in the annals of the Freneh Revolution, (the

expulsion

expulsion of the Whites from St. Domingo, and the six-years war of the Royalists in La Vendée and Britany,) to prove that men, associated by a common tie of interest, acquire a force of character, and powers of resistance to oppression, which military discipline alone cannot confer. It is, probably, owing to the operation of national sentiments that, on every occasion, during the late and present war, (as at Alexandria and Maida,) in which a fair measure could be taken of the military prowess of the two nations, the British legions have proved their superiority.

Neither will it escape your observation that, however high the military character of France may now be in consequence of her recent successes in the North of Europe, the conquest of England is not to be accomplished by armies alone. She must provide sailors; a race of men which cannot be disciplined for service as expeditiously as soldiers. We, indeed, do not find that good foremast men can be obtained for our navy but through the intervention of sea apprenticeships, an extensive coasting trade, fisheries, and colonies. It cannot, however, be doubted that Bonaparte, unchecked by past failures to procure *ships, colonies and commerce,* will henceforth direct his attention to such measures of military preparation in France, aided by diplomatic craft and commercial avarice in other countries, as may appear to be best calculated to overthrow the remaining barrier which our naval power still opposes to his projects. Those projects are, primarily and principally, his own aggrandizement

grandizement and security; and, as a part of the system necessary to render that security permanent, the elevation of his relations and dependants to the rank of royal sentinels on those subordinate thrones which now form the outposts of his empire. As far, also, as may be compatible with his principal object, he is desirous (and it is of importance to the cause of Britain that you should be satisfied that he is so) that the nation, which he dignifies with the appellation of *great and good*, should be industrious, wealthy, nay every thing but—free. His internal administration evinces his intention to promote, among his subjects, the progress of the various arts that are conducive to civilization. He knows the temper and the genius of Frenchmen too well to think of converting them into anchorites or Tartars. Never will he check what is called luxury, (the supposed forerunner of the fall of kingdoms,) by sumptuary laws; nor strive to become more formidable, than he actually is, by encouraging the adoption of a primeval simplicity of manners and a contempt for social refinement. The Parisian and the provincial may still, in their dress, their diet, and their dwellings, employ all the productions of the universe that are not the growth or manufacture of any part of the British empire.

With these views respecting France, his plans against you have developed themselves in a three-fold direction;—*in the decree for blockading the British isles; in the scheme, not yet matured, of northern confederacy;*

federacy; and in the system, long since begun, of American neutralization.

The blockade is not, as too many have supposed, mere angry language, mere imperial thunder, "full "of sound and fury, signifying nothing." France knows the nature of war too well to sanction the existence of any commerce that benefits us; and will not, even with her reduced marine, allow the sword, she aims at our heart, to be turned aside by the cloak of neutrality. Our merchants will find that in thus exercising this (it must be confessed, legitimate) mode of annoying her enemy, by confiscating vessels in which any British produce or manufactures may be discovered, she is not to be duped by the contrivances of commercial ingenuity; and it is to be hoped they will, at length, unanimously disdain to purchase licences to trade by becoming citizens of Philadelphia and burghers of Bremen; or to seek protection for their cargoes from the flags of Pappenburgh and Kniphausen. It is time they should feel that it is not degrading artifices abroad, but vigorous exertions at home, that will give ultimate security to the sources of their opulence. They ought never to forget that it is only in fable that the mouse preserves the lion from the trammels of the hunter.

The machinations of France have more than once reared the many-headed hydra, northern neutrality, against us. In 1801, we "scotch'd the snake; not "kill'd it:" in 1807 the potent spells of Tilsit have once

once more invigorated it; but, ere we feel its bite, our gallant knights at Copenhagen, no doubt, have crushed it for ever.

But American rights, it seems, are the chief instrumental means, relied on by France, for annihilating our commerce and our navy together. The Americans, not contented with the unbounded freedom of trade allowed them in British India, (a freedom which English private traders do not possess,) not contented with the advantage, which the cheapness of neutral carriage has given them, of supplying the British West Indies with provisions and lumber, (the last often carried by them from British settlements in America,) and with furnishing themselves, South America, and our colonies with Indian and German manufactures; have, now, after repeated insults to officers bearing his majesty's commission, and after receiving the flying ships of France into their ports in the most friendly manner, at length denied to ours the common rights of hospitality because their commanders have successfully enforced the right of search to recover deserters. It is remarkable that the country, which treats Britain thus contumeliously, is a country rapidly rising in commercial opulence by carrying coffees and sugars from the colonies of our enemy to Europe; and is a country whose principal frontier is nearly two thousand miles of sea coast; whose revenue is almost wholly derived from custom house duties on goods imported; and whose navy consists of about a dozen frigates and a score or two

of gun boats. The leviathan of the ocean is conceived to be no less patient than powerful.

Most auspiciously, however, for Britain, the time is arrived, which may be considered as one of those golden opportunities, that fortune sometimes presents in politics, which if neglected to be grasped will never again occur. One general system will, now, meet the increasing difficulties to which we are exposed from France, from the North of Europe, and from America. We can only counteract Bonaparte's code of *Continental Aggrandizement* by a British code of *Maritime Rights*; a code, which, whilst it is founded on the principles of security and self-preservation, is compatible with the purest principles of justice; and, in enabling us to carry on the war with vigour, will open to us the portal of a secure peace.

With this great ultimate object in view, you have, now, one plain open course of policy to pursue; to vindicate your right to the dominion of the sea, which the valour of British seamen has acquired; and to prove that what they acquired is not a barren sceptre, or empty title, invented by flatterers to gratify your vanity with the swelling theme of "Rule "Britannia." Such indeed it will very shortly become, if (as seems to be nearly the case at present) the captains of our men of war cannot make a lawful prize because they are not accompanied by doctors

and

and proctors to expound the laws of nations and explain the mysteries of neutralization.

Let it not be supposed that, with respect to America, the assertion of our Maritime Rights is proposed in order to cut the Gordian knot of difficulties with that country by plunging her into a war. A few among you of ardent minds may, possibly, contend, in the language of Sir Lucius O'Trigger, that, under the well-founded causes of complaint which the United States have given us, we should consider that "the quarrel is a very pretty quarrel as it now stands." It will, however, be evident to the sober judgment of Britons that pusillanimous acquiescence in the increasing demands of America is far more likely to terminate in ruinous hostility than a temperate, yet firm, avowal of our determination not to permit any neutral whatever to paralize our means of annoying our enemy. The subject, it is hardly necessary to observe, is a very different one from that, so frequently agitated,—the policy of our navigation laws: the question is not in what ships we should permit particular goods to be imported into, or exported from, particular parts of the British Empire; but whether, having the full command of the ocean, we ought to allow other countries to have any intercourse, by sea, with France, during the war.

What better example can we follow than that line of conduct which, at the Revolution, precisely when our civil liberties were asserted and confirmed, our

great deliverer, King William, considered as necessary to secure the naval ascendancy of Britons? By the treaty of Whitehall, dated the 12th of August 1689, it was declared "that it was agreed between "the king of Great Britain and the States General "that if, during the course of the war, the subjects "of any other king, prince, or state, should under-"take to traffick, or have any commerce, with the "subjects of the most christian king, or, if their "vessels, or shipping, were met with in their pas-"sage to the ports, havens, or roads, under the obe-"dience of the most christian king, the said vessels, "shipping, merchandize, or wares, should, in the "case above-mentioned, be attacked, and taken, by "the captains of men of war, privateers, or other "subjects of the king of Great Britain and the Lords "of the States General; and should, before proper "judges, be condemned for lawful prize." It is true that the prosecution of this measure was given up, in compliance with the representations of the northern powers; but it must be recollected that the chief object of King William was a vigorous war on the continent. This country, however, is, now, differently circumstanced: and a declaration, similar to the one above noticed, with an addition to extend it to all vessels and goods, *coming from*, as well as *going to*, any part of France *or its dependencies*, would, probably, be considered by you, (and considered very justly,) as the assurance of your safety. The victories of France on the Continent, the absolute sway now exercised by her from Memel to Constantinople,

stantinople, her predominating influence at St. Petersburgh, and her intrigues in America, would amply justify the adoption of a measure for which the resources of Britain are so well adapted.

War cannot long be carried on without the concurrence of the people. "There must" (as Mr. Burke observes) "be not only acquiescence but zeal." That zeal, we may trust, has already been excited by the well-timed operations in the Baltic. Ere this, they probably have secured to us the key of that sea; and with this in our hands, or under our control, we may defy attempts of invasion from that quarter, preserve a free passage for naval stores destined for our arsenals, and (what is, perhaps, of no less importance) prevent France from obtaining them. The expedition is, indeed, above all praise when considered as an earnest of the sentiments of Government respecting our Maritime Rights; and justifies the hope that they will, in due time, stake the salvation of their country on the maintenance of a system which recent events appear to have rendered indispensable.

To such a system, whilst under discussion, objections will be urged in every possible form. The press will groan with pamphlets to prove its impolicy: traders, fattening on neutralization, will declaim against its injustice: the opinions of foreign civilians will be quoted as paramount law, which we must not venture to disregard without subjecting ourselves to the ban of mankind. We shall be told that Britain

is scarcely equal to the present conflict; that it is madness to provoke new foes; that America, once offended, will by non-importation acts make bankrupts of our manufacturers, and by non-exportation acts starve our colonies; that we shall be deprived of naval stores; that peace will be placed at an immeasurable distance; that the war-expences will be doubled; and the present taxes rendered unproductive. To these, and similar, arguments, which will be addressed to the vilest passions of the human breast, your avarice and your fears, be your plain answer this; that you have great national interests to preserve, and are determined to hazard your existence rather than abandon them. The decision once made, the hand and the heart of the nation will go together.

It might easily be proved from commercial and financial details that even on the principles of cold calculation (principles which are not now applicable to the question of war or peace) you would be gainers by the assertion of your maritime rights. The idea that we should continue our deference to neutrals in order to supply the sources of taxation is a mere bug-bear, that will strut and fret its' hour upon the stage and then be heard no more. The taxes raised on foreign consumers by our customs constitute a very insignificant portion of the public revenue. Nor can America deprive our manufacturers of the means of paying taxes without depriving her own citizens of the necessaries of life. "Opposuit natura Alpem-

"que

"que nivemque." One hard winter would revive among them the Anglomania for woollens and linens; which, besides clothing them, feed their merchants, and fill their Exchequer. No non-importation act would be attended to. Can the Spaniards, in peace or war, prevent the introduction of British manufactures into their colonies? The interdiction, too, of all commerce with those parts of Europe which are under the dominion or control of Bonaparte, and in the event of war of all commerce with the British empire, would prevent the Americans from using German manufactures, (if subjugated Germany has manufactures to export,) on India goods, as substitutes for the woollens, linens, and cottons of Great Britain. The whole of the India trade would center in this country; and, in various points of view, might be rendered more conducive, than it now is, to the interests of our ship owners, our merchants, and manufacturers; to the support of our naval power; and the preservation of our empire in Asia: an empire, which, it is observable, is indebted to Marquis Wellesley's vigorous administration for the most efficient means of providing resistance to French aggression; more particularly for the acquisition of a valuable line of sea-coast that will open new channels of trade and new sources of maritime ascendancy. May we profit by the wisdom of that illustrious statesman, although on his return home he has not received those acclamations from your general voice which were due to the preserver of India!

The proceedings of Parliament and the acts of Government are favourable omens that a proper impulse will, at length, be given to the national feelings on maritime rights. In a Report from a Committee of the House of Commons (made the latter end of July) on the commercial state of the West India Colonies, it is said that "the distress of the planter "is to be ascribed to one grand and primary evil "from which all the others are easily to be deduced; "namely, the facility of intercourse between the "hostile colonies and Europe under the American "neutral flag, by means of which not only the "whole of their produce is carried to a market, but "at charges little exceeding those of peace, while "the British planter is burthened with all the incon-"venience, risk, and expence, resulting from a state "of war." The Committee add, that "the advan-"tages, which the hostile colonies derive from the "relaxation of that principle which prohibited any "trade from being carried on with the enemy's co-"lonies by neutrals during war, which the enemy "himself did not permit to those neutrals during "peace, may be in part estimated by reference to a "statement of the imports into Amsterdam alone "from the United States of America in the year "1806, amounting to 34,085 hogsheads of coffee, "and 45,097 hogsheads of sugar, conveyed in 211 "vessels:" and it is supposed that the joint imports of coffee and sugar by Rotterdam and Antwerp are nearly equal to those of Amsterdam.

We

We may presume that allusion is made to our Maritime Rights by the speech from the Throne (on the 14th of August) in which the King appeals to his people " to support him in every measure which " may be necessary to defeat the designs of his ene- " mies, against the independence of his Majesty's " dominions, and to maintain, against any undue " pretensions, and against any hostile confederacy, " those *just rights* which his Majesty is always de- " sirous to exercise with temper and moderation; " but which, as essential to the honour of his Crown " and true interests of his people, he is determined " never to surrender."

It is not only in the expedition to the Baltic that administration have acted up to the sentiments professed in the King's Speech. The Gazette of the 22d of August contains instructions to our ships of war to detain, and bring in, after the expiration of six weeks, all vessels, trading under the neutral flags of Oldenburgh, Mecklenburgh, Kniphausen and Pappenburgh, unless those vessels be on a voyage to or from a British port. A similar spirit appears in an order respecting American ships, not built in America.

From what has been stated respecting the imports of Amsterdam, it is obvious that a considerable consumption of West India produce takes place on the Continent. Manufactures from India and various products from North America and the Baltic, are

also conveyed, by neutral carriers, into the ports of France and of the dependant states which surround her. The proper application, therefore, of our naval force, by checking these supplies, would afford the British colonists and manufacturers the fairest chance of entering the continental markets. The people of France must, then, receive our commodities, or suffer by privation: and it is only the pressure of war that will render them sensible of the blessings of peace. This pressure would be created by a measure that would, at once, destroy the foreign coasting and colonial trade of our enemies, which, it appears from the Report above quoted, they still carry on in their own vessels, that have been mortgaged to the Americans during the continuance of the war and are to be returned to the French merchants within a few months after peace is concluded. "The honour of "his Majesty's crown and true interests of his peo- "ple" require that such a system should be put an end to.

The question of peace must be preceded by the assertion of our Maritime Rights. France will, then, feel and suffer by the war. We cannot effect her by attacking her armies, or by combating her finances; but the trident of the waves enables us to draw round her a magic circle, (as impassable as the land-belt which surrounds the king of Candy,) and to render her, during war, tributary to our merchants and manufacturers, for all the foreign produce which she and her dependants may chuse to consume.

Preserving

Preserving thus, in war, the sources of our naval power, prosperous and inviolate, we need not, in future negociations for peace, seek for British safety from a *sine quâ non* in Sicily, or a Russian boundary in Istria. It will be sufficient to stipulate for such rights, territorial, commercial, or political, as, in the event of any future war, will enable our maritime ascendancy to display itself with undiminished splendor; and to perpetuate those advantages which it has obtained for the country.

VINDEX.

9th Sept. 1807.

T. BURTON, PRINTER, 31, LITTLE QUEEN STREET, HOLBORN.

ON THE

MARITIME RIGHTS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

SECOND PART.

LONDON:

SOLD BY MESS. RICHARDSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE, AND J. BUDD, CROWN AND MITRE, PALL-MALL.

T. BURTON, PRINTER, 31, LITTLE QUEEN STREET, HOLBORN.

1807.

[Price Two Shillings.]

ADDRESS to the PEOPLE:

ON THE

MARITIME RIGHTS

OF

GREAT BRITAIN.

THE measure, recommended in the preceding pages, of interdicting all commerce between the enemy and neutrals, will be found, not only to be justifiable on precedent as well as principle, but to accord with the general views of British policy, and to promise the most beneficial consequences from its adoption.

The grand fundamental duty of the neutral is, " that he is not to relieve one belligerent from the " infliction of his adversary's force, knowing the " situation of affairs on which the interposition of " his act could have such a consequence :"* and two of the practical results of this duty have been that the neutral is neither permitted to traffick in any articles whatever, with ports, or coasts, blockaded by a competent force; nor to aid a belligerent by supplying him with contraband commodities. No specific enumeration, indeed, of what articles are contraband has, yet, been generally agreed on: but it is universally allowed that the neutral must not interpose; although the opinions of different countries are, and, probably, ever will be, at variance as to what constitutes interposition; and it seems to be no less consistent with reason and equity, to restrain the neutral from any intercourse with the enemy that is calculated to support the " substance, " sinews, arms, and strength" of his military power, —his colonies, commercial marine, manufactures, or revenue, than to interdict the supply of those articles which are immediately necessary or useful for the purposes of war.†

Such

* See *Robinson's Adm. Rep.* vol. IV. p. 126.

† The reasoning of Puffendorf applies no less forcibly to the right contended for, than to the right of search: " les Anglois " peuvent dire sans absurdité qu'il leur est permis de faire tout le " mal qu'ils peuvent aux François avec qu'ils sont en guerre, et " par

Such general reasoning would have been fairly applicable at all times to justify the right contended for; although it is a right, which, however conformable to the principles of legitimate warfare, has, in point of fact, been seldom exercised by belligerents in its full extent. This forbearance may be satisfactorily accounted for. Europe, during the two last centuries, has consisted of various independent states, whose interests in commercial matters, in general, depended so much on reciprocal accommodation, that belligerents, even in those wars which were undertaken for commercial objects, considered it to be sound policy not to enforce this maritime right against neutrals. In the wars, too, in which this country was engaged, although in many instances the contests were long, bloody, and expensive, it does not appear that either party aimed at the compleat subjugation of his opponent. The state of Europe and the system of war are now wholly changed. There is now only one great substantive military power. The vanquisher of Austria, Prussia, and Russia, "bestrides the narrow "world like a Colossus;" and threatens to overthrow

"par conséquent d'emploier le moien le plus propre à les affoi-"blir, qui consiste à traverser ou empêcher leur commerce: "qu'il n'est pas juste que les peuples neutres s'enrichissent à leurs "depens, et, en attirant à eux un commerce interrompu pour "l'Angleterre, fournissent à la France des secours pour continuer "la guerre. On ne doit pas souffrir qu'ils l'augmentent, à l'oc-"casion de la guerre, au préjudice des Anglois." *Le Droit de la Nature et des Gens, traduit par Barbeyrac.* Liv. 8, c. 6, §. 8. note.

the

the only remaining barrier to his ambition. The continental boundaries of his western empire are nearly traced out. A few petty states, indeed, still remain to be annexed to it: Britain, however, cannot save them; and her attention must, henceforth, be turned from the consideration of their subordinate interests to the providing for her own security. Indeed, the public voice seems in unison on this theme;

> Sermo oritur, non de villis domibusve alienis;
> ——————— sed quod magis ad nos
> Pertinet, et nescire malum est, agitamus.

That the system of war is changed, and that the object of our implacable enemy is not the mere aggrandizement of France, but the absolute conquest of England, is unequivocally demonstrated both by his language and his actions. The thought is ever uppermost in his mind, and breaks forth amidst "the pomp and circumstance" of continental victories, at periods when, it might be supposed, military glory had afforded it full employment. Whilst capitulating Austrians file off before him at Ulm, he sighs for "ships, colonies, and commerce;" and, whilst his legions are desolating Prussia, he issues his edicts from Berlin, that Britain shall be excluded from any further intercourse with the Continent. "In truth," (as the author of "the Dangers of the Country" justly observes,) "it "is impossible that he should ever cease to regard "our subjugation as the first and most necessary "part of his policy. His throne cannot be stable, "while civil liberty remains unsubverted in any

"part

" part of Europe; and though freedom is every
" where the object of his hatred and dread, yet
" it is particularly terrible to him here. With
" such a neighbour as the British constitution, he
" knows that his military despotism can never
" cease to be invidious and odious in France."*

Nor are the plans of Napoleon against England, and the altered state of the Continent, the only points to be adverted to in the consideration of the proper system for this country to pursue in her present situation; a situation, which, it must be recollected, is, (as the French Exposés very truly denominate it,) a maritime war. Other political changes, no less important in their bearings on the present contest, than the changes already noticed, have taken place within the memory of man.

Previously to the American Revolution, tea, sugar, coffee, spices, tobacco, cotton, furs, and various other products of Asia and America, (products which may now be considered as necessary articles of food, or manufactures,) were obtainable only by the intervention of European trade. They were all imported in European vessels †, and, by far the greater part, from European colonies; the most important of which belonged to Great Britain, Holland, France, and Spain; and the trade with those colonies was

* P. 81.

† That is, in vessels belonging to the subjects of European states.

almost

almost wholly carried on in vessels belonging to the mother country. In wars, therefore, between these powers, the infliction of the enemy's force was severely felt by the colonies of that belligerent whose maritime force was unable to protect them. But the possessions of France in North America, which furnished her West India islands with some part of the provisions and lumber they required, having been conquered by Great Britain, and the English colonies in North America, which supplied still more copiously both provisions and lumber for her sugar islands, having been declared independent, a material alteration has taken place in the commercial relations between Europe and the West Indies. For the accommodation of those colonies, and in consideration of an equivalent return, the United States have been permitted, by a relaxation of our maritime code, to continue, under certain restrictions, a trade, which they had formerly the right as British subjects to enjoy in its fullest extent. But if they are to claim the benefit of the ancient maxims of war, assented to by us with reference to the ancient state of Europe and its ancient relations with her colonies, they must place themselves in a situation to which those maxims will apply. But this is impossible: a new order of things has arisen to which they must submit. Their establishment as an independent maritime state, and their vicinage to the French colonies, which can thus obtain the means of existence, and of transmitting their produce to the mother country, justify Britain in revising her

rules

rules of warfare in such a manner as may render them as efficient for asserting her rights as they were in former periods, when the Continent consisted of various independent states, whose commerce with all parts of the world was carried on under European flags.

The other change to be adverted to, is one, which (most fortunately for the interests of Britain at the present crisis) has taken place in maritime affairs. From contending on nearly equal terms with the fleets of France, during the inglorious period of the American war, she has become the mistress of the ocean, by a series of naval triumphs, not more brilliant in their display of British valour, than decisive in their destructive effects on those means of annoyance, which the enemy appears most anxious to augment, as the best calculated to insure our fall; and the vigorous policy, which has placed the Danish fleets within our harbours, has extinguished the best hope of France of assailing us from the North. It is probably no exaggeration to say that the British navy now exceeds, in the actual number of ships of war, as well as in efficient force, the aggregate amount of all the navies in the world.

Napoleon, however, still perseveres in the construction of fleets, being fully sensible that he shall derive from the acquiescence of Britain in the encroachments of neutral commerce, all those maritime

advantages which are essential for the establishment of a naval power: he seems to be convinced, that, in deference to the clamours of neutrals, we shall continue those relaxations of the vigorous system adopted by our ancestors, which have already proved so injurious to our commerce and our colonies; and probably anticipates the facility with which the rule of 1756 (which was sufficient before the emancipation of America to maintain our belligerent rights) would now be evaded, from the plea, to be asserted by the United States, that, even under that rule, they are entitled to carry on an accustomed trade with the West Indies.

The principle, however, that neutrals shall not interpose to protect those national resources of the enemy, derivable from colonies, commerce, or revenue, which furnish the means of raising fleets and armies, on which only that rule is defensible, sanctions the adoption of a more extended rule; extended indeed, according to the new circumstances in which belligerents are placed; but directed to the same object, the prevention of unwarrantable interposition.

It was in this principle, no doubt, that the rule of 1756 originated, "that a neutral has no right to "deliver a belligerent from the pressure of his ene-"my's hostilities by trading with his colonies in time "of war in a way that was prohibited in time of "peace," under which the prize courts of Great Britain in the seven years war condemned all vessels

and

and cargoes engaged in the trade with the French West Indies; a trade which they considered to be unwarranted by the rights of neutrality, although the property captured might appear to belong to neutrals.

During the American war our maritime code was "sicklied over;" and, on the ground that France meant, as a permanent system, to admit neutrals to trade with her colonies, a very general relaxation of the rule took place: but in the war of 1793 the rule was re-established by the instructions issued that year to ships of war and privateers, "to bring in all "ships laden with the produce of any French colony, "or carrying to them provisions or other supplies." This order, however, was revoked in January 1794 by our instructions directing only "the bringing "in of West India produce coming directly from the "French islands to any part of Europe:" and in 1798 a further relaxation took place; the new order being "to bring in ships laden with the colonial produce "of the enemy, coming directly to any port in "Europe, not being a port of Great Britain, or of "the country to which such ships, being neutrals, "belonged." The instructions issued in 1803 were no less indulgent to neutrals. They say that, "in "consideration of the present state of commerce, "his Majesty is pleased to direct the commanders of "ships of war and privateers not to seize any neutral "vessel carrying on trade directly between the colo-"nies of the enemy, and the neutral country to "which the vessel belongs, and laden with the pro-

" perty of inhabitants of such neutral country; pro-
" vided that such vessel does not, on her outward
" voyage, supply the enemy with contraband, or trade
" with a blockaded port."

Many of the ill effects of these relaxations of the rule of 1756 have been detailed in the Commons' Report, (already noticed,) respecting the West India Trade. They have not only been injurious to the property of the West India planters; but to the British fisheries in America; to the trade between British America and the West Indies; the trade between Britain and the West Indies; and the West India free port trade; in which last the Americans have supplanted us in the supply of the enemies colonies with European manufactures, most of which, instead of being manufactures sent from this country to those free ports, are the manufactures of Brabant, Holland, Germany, and Russia, and are exported directly from those countries to America.*

The rule of 1756 was rendered, by the state of the colonies at that time, and the relative situations of the belligerents, completely efficacious. Canada belonged to France; and its exports to the West Indies, either in fish, flour, or lumber, were lawful prize: and the other parts of North America, which could furnish those articles, were under the control of Great Bri-

* See more particularly the evidence of Mr. Inglis. *Report on the Trade with the West Indies*, p. 52.

tain.

tain. Nor could the European neutral states, had they possessed any considerable quantity of exportable produce in lumber or provisions, have pleaded the right of accustomed trade, to justify their interposition in relieving the French colonies. Some advantages, indeed, were derived by those colonies from their intercourse with the Dutch island of St. Eustatia; but it appears from a memorial, (which Smollett has recorded in his history,) addressed to the French commander in chief by the French officers in Martinico, that that island was reduced to great distress in the third year of the war (1758).† "They represented that the trade with the Dutch "was become their sole dependance; that they could "expect no succour from Europe, by which they "had been abandoned ever since the commence-"ment of the war; that the traders vested with the "privilege of trafficking among them had abused "the intention of the general, and, instead of being "of service to the colony, had fixed an arbitrary "price for all the provisions which they brought in, "as well as for the commodities which they exported; "of consequence the former was valued at as high

† It is not easy, from any documents before the public, to ascertain with what degree of vigour the rule of 1756 was enforced during the war: the fluctuating state of party politics at home probably, in some degree, influenced its operation. It seems not unlikely that the present crisis may lead to the publication of official accounts of the maritime system of the different administrations in the seven years war.

" a price as their avarice could exact, and the latter
" sunk as low in value as their own selfish hearts
" could conceive: that the colony for two months
" had been destitute of all kinds of provision; the
" commodities of the planters lay upon their hands;
" and their negroes were in danger of perishing
" through hunger; a circumstance that excited the
" apprehension of the most dreadful consequences;
" as to slaves half starved, all kinds of bondage were
" equal; and people reduced to such a situation were
" often driven to despair, seeking in anarchy and
" confusion, a remedy from the evils by which they
" were oppressed; that the best provided of the in-
" habitants laboured under the want of the common
" necessaries of life; and others had not so much as
" a grain of salt in their houses; that there was an
" irreparable scarcity of slaves to cultivate their land;
" and the planters were reduced to the necessity of
" killing their cattle to support the lives of those
" who remained alive; so that the mills were no
" longer worked, and the inhabitants consumed be-
" fore hand what ought to be reserved for their sus-
" tenance, in case of being blocked up by the enemy.
" They desired, therefore, that the general would
" suppress the permissions granted to particular mer-
" chants, and admit neutral vessels freely into their
" ports, that they might trade with the colonists
" unmolested and unrestrained. They observed,
" that the citadel of Port Royal seemed the principal
" object on which the safety and defence of the
" country depended; as the loss of it would be

" necessarily

" necessarily attended with the reduction of the " whole island: they, therefore, advised that this " fort should be properly provided with every thing " necessary for its safety and defence; and that ma- " gazines of provision as well as ammunition should " be established in different quarters of the island."*

This deplorable situation of Martinico, which may fairly be ascribed to the operation of the rule of 1756, was the more remarkable, as France still possessed her North American provinces,† whilst her numerous cruisers were distressing our trade,‡ and her powerful fleets were contending with the British squadrons for the sovereignty of the ocean.§

If the state of Martinico and Guadaloupe in 1807 were compared with their state fifty years ago, it

* *Hist. of England,* vol. V. p. 2, 8vo edit.

† Quebec was taken in the latter end of 1759.

‡ The whole number of British ships taken by the enemy between the 1st of June, 1756, and the 1st of June, 1760, is stated at 2539: in which period the British cruisers captured 914 vessels. *Smollett,* B. 3, c. 13, §. 14.

§ They had, in Europe and Asia, above 50 serviceable sail of the line. The Toulon squadron of La Clue (who was defeated by Boscawen in Aug. 1759) consisted of 19 sail: and the Brest Squadron, under Conflans, (who was defeated by Hawke in Nov. 1759,) amounted to 21. Apché commanded 11 sail in the East Indies. *Smollett,* B. 3, c. 10, §. 47, 51, c. 12, §. 6.

ther

would appear that, although separated from the mother country by a sea, on which not a single French man of war can be found, they owe to British complaisance the means of importing, through neutrals, all they want, and of exporting all they can sell. Far from being impoverished by warfare, both these islands are more flourishing than they were before the French Revolution, not only in produce, but in population; having, according to official documents, doubled their numbers since the year 1789.* War is to them the assurance of prosperity; for, as dearness and cheapness are relative terms in commerce, although it costs more to bring sugar from Martinico or Cuba,† by America to Europe, than directly from those islands, yet the extra war-charges for freight and insurance sustained by the British exporter of sugars to the continental markets, render the conveyance of sugar to Europe through British, twice as expensive as through American,

* Extract from the *Moniteur* in the *London Newspapers of the 2d* and *3d of September,* 1805.

† Cuba is stated by one author to have doubled its cultivation in the last war; (*see War in Disguise,*) and by another to have increased its produce of sugar from 10,000 hogsheads in 1792, to 140,000 hogsheads in 1806. (See *Spence's Radical Cause of West India Distress.*)

ports.

ports.* The ex-minister Talleyrand, if he should again turn his attention to the consideration of colonial policy, will, probably, not omit to contrast the thriving trade of his master's sugar colonies with the following description, given by an eminent merchant to a committee of the House of Commons, of the present state of our West India concerns:

" Without immediately adverting to the incon-
" veniencies to which merchants and opulent traders
" may be exposed from the non-payment of interest,
" and the deterioration of the securities they hold, I
" conceive the distress which already prevails, and
" which is daily increasing, exceeds and is of a differ-
" ent description from any arising from disappoint-
" ment in commercial adventure. The parties inte-
" rested in West India property, so far as I am con-

* See *Report on the Trade with the West Indies*, p. 13.

In the year 1806.

		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
From British West Indies by London to Holland	Freight	0	14				
	Insurance	0	4	10			
					0	18	10
From Foreign West Indies by the United States to Holland	Freight	0	7	6			
	Insurance	0	2	5			
					0	9	11
Difference					0	8	11
From British West Indies by London to the Mediterranean	Freight	1	0	0			
	Insurance	0	6	0			
					1	6	0
From Foreign West Indies by the United States to the Mediterranean	Freight	0	9	6			
	Insurance	0	4	0			
					0	13	6
Difference					0	12	6

" cerned with it, are for the most part long established
" families, resident in Great Britain, who participate
" in the net produce; as, widows entitled to join-
" tures, younger children entitled to interest on le-
" gacies, mortgagees, persons beneficially interested
" under marriage settlements, annuitants generally
" in small sums; all which parties are for the most
" part entitled to payment before the proprietor of
" the estate can appropriate any part of the produce
" to his own use; these payments have, to my
" knowledge, on the largest, and on some of the
" best, properties in the West Indies, fallen very ge-
" nerally into arrear since Michaelmas last; and it
" is obvious, therefore, that the proprietor can have
" no means of defraying the ordinary expences of
" his family. A very remarkable instance is now
" before me, of a gentleman possessing one of the
" largest properties in the West Indies, whose es-
" tate, subject to no incumbrances, did not produce
" in the last year a sum equal to the amount assessed
" on him for the property tax, on a return of the
" produce for the three preceding years; and who is
" now called upon to pay above £.1000 for his tax
" though it is improbable that even the presen
" year's crop will enable him to pay the amount
" yet he paid about £.8000 duty to government on
" his last crop, and will pay as much on this. Th
" distress universally is become so great among the
" wholly dependent on West India concerns, that I
" am not aware that it would be materially increased
" by the total annihilation of the properties; and I

" conceive

" conceive it to be an object of the utmost import-
" ance, that some beneficial change should be imme-
" diately effected."*

It may be said, that the evil will cure itself; that the planters now grow more sugar, even in the British colonies, than the British empire can consume; that, when the cultivation is reduced, the article will meet with an adequate price; and that similar inconvenience results to any other branch of agriculture, from overstocking the market. The West India trade, however, bears no analogy to other trades, nor is the sugar grower placed on the same footing with farmers in general. The corn grower, for instance, when the home price is what legislative wisdom deems low, is allowed the choice of foreign markets; but the the sugar grower is restricted to go first to the home market. The circumstance of war is the peculiar feature of the case, both as it respects the interests of the planter and the commercial and naval interests of Great Britain. In peace time, it would be the duty of government not to contravene the ordinary maxims of trade, which leave demand and supply to find their proper level: but a part of the glut of the home market is certainly not created by the British sugar planters; and none of it can be ascribed to their imprudence, if their cultivation has not been increased beyond the wants of those mar-

* *Report on the Trade with the West India Colonies*, p. 39.

kets, which it was reasonable for British subjects to expect the vigour of British councils would secure to them during war.

By the conquest of the French islands of St. Lucia and Tobago, and the Dutch settlements of Surinam, Berbice, Demerara, and Essequibo, and the consequent additional supply poured from thence into the home market, the British government deprives the old sugar islands of the reciprocity they enjoyed under our colonial system.* The quantity of sugar imported from the conquered Dutch settlements in the year 1801 was 299,805 cwt.; and on the average of the years 1799, 1800, and 1801, it was 140,812 cwt. The sugar exported from St.

" * The means which she has adopted for securing to herself " the trade of her colonies are, in many respects, more liberal " than those which have been employed by other nations; and " the restrictions which she imposes are not confined to the ports " of her West Indian possessions, but extended with impartial " justice to her own. Not only the restraint but the benefit is " reciprocal. The mother country affords a ready market for the " colony as the colony does for the mother country. What is called " monopoly in this case is mutual. If England benefit by the " exclusive supply, the colonies benefit by the highly favoured sale " of their rum and sugar. The restriction which operates bene- " ficially to the first is accompanied by the restriction which ope- " rates favourably to the last." (*See Lord Sheffield's Strictures, ed.* 1806, *p.* 69.) The proper counterpoise to the inconvenience experienced by the old colonies, by the introduction of the sugar from the conquered islands into the home market, is the prevention of neutral interlopers from interfering with the European market.

Lucie

Lucia and Tobago to Great Britain, on the average of the same period, amounted to 121,053 cwt. yearly. The aggregate amount of our imports of sugar from the conquered colonies is probably equal to a seventh or eighth of the home consumption.

There can be little doubt that, if the great principles of our maritime policy be acted upon, the supply of the continent, from Britain, may be extended sufficiently to absorb all the surplus import of sugar not wanted for home consumption. From an examination of the annexed table * it will be seen that, notwithstanding the relaxation of those principles, a much greater proportion of sugar has been exported from this country since 1792 than in former wars. Various complex causes no doubt have influenced the export; but it is singular that periods of particular relaxation, during the last war, have been periods of diminished export. The war in 1793 commenced auspiciously, with good old English instructions to capture all produce coming from the enemy's colonies; and in 1794 the export doubled. Relaxation took place; and the next year the export fell off. Through "the dexterous and firm sagacity "of English enterprize," it gradually recovered it's tone, till 1798, when another relaxation of orders took place, and in the following year the export was reduced one half.

* From the *Report on the West India Trade*, pp. 72 and 73.

An

An Account of Sugar imported from the West India Colonies into Great Britain, in the following periods, and exported, in the same periods, to Ireland and other parts, expressing the Sugar in cwts. after reducing the refined into raw, on the principle of 34 to 20.

PERIODS.			IMPORTED.	EXPORTED.		
				To Ireland.	To other Parts.	Total.
			Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Annual Average of Five Years to	1765	inclusive	1,485,377	133,796	354,434	488,230
	1775	ditto	1,835,836	218,993	82,922	301,915
	1785	ditto	1,579,537	157,217	157,513	314,730
	1795	ditto	2,021,825	140,646	496,075	636,721
Annual Average of Six Years to	1806	ditto	3,389,734	145,480	1,058,336	1,203,816

An Account of Sugar imported from all parts into Great Britain in the following years, and exported.

YEARS.	IMPORTED.	EXPORTED.		
		To Ireland.	To other Parts.	Total.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
1791	1,813,192	141,639	268,342	409,981
1792	1,989,230	117,254	510,383	627,637
1793	2,194,726	154,275	363,354	517,629
1794	2,519,181	163,743	866,044	1,029,787
1795	2,151,272	168,264	646,668	814,932
1796	2,240,299	144,446	541,792	686,238
1797	2,139,887	208,343	657,821	866,164
1798	2,699,864	176,325	1,046,987	1,223,312
1799	3,390,974	211,185	407,352	618,537
1800	3,164,474	358,775	1,298,777	1,657,552
1801	3,976,554	122,611	1,080,158	1,202,769
1802	4,297,079	182,896	1,863,872	2,046,768
1803	3,185,894	151,639	1,541,645	1,693,284
1804	3,248,306	162,728	941,209	1,103,937
1805	3,178,788	166,028	936,657	1,102,685
1806	3,815,175	134,802	878,633	1,013,435

It

It is not only for supplying the enemy's colonies with articles necessary for their existence that ships are freighted thither from the United States. It appears from the admiralty Reports that ships of war have been exported and sold in the enemy's ports: and it is highly probable that neutral intercourse has much facilitated the equipment of the numerous privateers which annoy our trade in the West Indies. Naval stores, indeed, as a cargo, are contraband: but every neutral vessel being allowed for her own use a stock of gunpowder, pitch, spars, ropes, and other articles, the aggregate surplus supplies which neutral ships (for instance, 211 Americans which entered the port of Amsterdam last year,) might convey to the enemy under the present system, must be very considerable.

If precedents be necessary to justify a measure, founded on the principles of reason and equity, and essential for our preservation, precedents may be found not only in the history of Great Britain, but in that of Holland, at a period when she was not less interested, or less able, to assert her belligerent rights than this country is at present. As early as the second year of Edward the Third (1328), in a charter of privileges to foreign merchants, "an in-"strument, which," Lord Liverpool observes,* "may

* In his *Discourse on the Conduct of Great Britain respecting neutral Nations,* published in 1757.

"well

" well be considered as a sort of maritime regulation " by which England meant to direct her conduct at " that time on affairs of this nature," the liberty of navigation was confirmed, and foreign merchants were allowed to carry their goods, whether purchased within the kingdom, or not, to any country they pleased, except to the King's enemies; and, some offences being afterwards committed against this charter in the succeeding wars, it was again renewed in the same manner in the sixth year of this reign. In both these instances the exception is express that no trade whatsoever should be permitted with the enemy.

Nor are these the only instances deserving our notice on the subject. We may, from a reference to the annals of a reign, which the exploits of the British navy have peculiarly distinguished,

" In pleasing dreams the blissful age renew,
" And call Britannia's glories back to view;
" Behold her cross triumphant on the main,
" The guard of commerce, and the dread of Spain."*

" When Elizabeth was engaged in war with Spain, " she seized several vessels of the Hans-towns which " were entering into the port of Lisbon; and she " urged, among other arguments, the charter above- " mentioned in defence of her conduct: she was in " this respect so satisfied of the justice of her cause,

* *Johnson's London.*

" that

" that the threats of the German empire,* and other " neutral powers, could not oblige her to relinquish " her right."†

Such was the conduct of two English princes who knew how to assert their rights, and who ruled their people with glory. May the reign of his present Majesty (which has already in duration exceeded that of Elizabeth, and will, we hope, exceed that of Edward) consolidate the invaluable rights which those monarchs asserted, and the naval ascendancy of Britain still enables her to maintain!— May the vigour of the nation be directed, ere it be

* The states of Germany have, once more, been enlisted, or rather impressed, into the service of the enemies of Britain, and may be expected to declaim as loudly against the assertion of our maritime rights, as the hired writers of the Spanish monarch did, two centuries ago, against the conduct of Queen Elizabeth. Lord Liverpool remarks that the virulent answer from Antwerp, a city under the dominion of Spain, to the Queen's declarations, " seemed " to be written (says Thuanus) per hominem Philippi partibus " addictum, non tam pro libertate navigationis et in Germanorum " causâ defendendâ quam in Hispanorum gratiam et ad reginæ " nomen proscindendum." We may truly repeat the comment of the noble author: " this case need not be compared with our own " at present: the resemblance is too obvious."

† " It is remarkable that Mons. de Thou, who was himself a " great lawyer, and had long sat in the first court of judicature " in France, even when he blames the conduct of the queen in " this affair, passeth his censure upon it not as defective in justice " but only in policy: in tam alieno tempore (says he) rerum pru- " dentiores existimabant imprudenter factum esse â reginâ ab " Anglis." See *Lord Liverpool's Discourse.*

too late, to the overthrow of that insidious system which France has encouraged neutrals to contend for! If we pusillanimously permit that system to be confirmed, we shall, as the animated Sulpicius predicts, "lose all title to preeminence and all claim "to national distinction; the memory of our past "triumphs will serve only as an additional reproach "to the humiliation of that moment; and, instead "of the unshaken confidence with which we now "withstand the aggressions of nations leagued "against us, we must receive the yoke of France, "and submit in despondency and shame to the ruin "of our once free, glorious, and happy country."

The following cases, from Lord Liverpool's treatise, will shew that Holland, in her days of maritime glory, considered it to be the right of a belligerent to interdict all intercourse with the enemy. "At "the beginning almost of that war, which the United "Provinces sustained in support of their liberties, "and even before their sovereignty was as yet fully "established, the people of Zealand scrupled not to "carry into their ports all such neutral vessels as "were conveying the effects of the enemy, under "pretended names, from Flanders into Spain; and "the courts of admiralty of that province adjudged "the Spanish property to be legal prize; and though "they released the neutral ships, they made them no "compensation for their freightage." *

* Lord *Liverpool's Discourse.*

Another precedent, still more applicable to the present period, may be found in the History of Holland. "In the year 1599, when the government "of Spain first prohibited the subjects of the United "Provinces from trading to the ports of that king- "dom, a liberty which had unaccountably been al- "lowed them, from the commencement of their re- "volt to that period; the States General, in revenge, "published a placart, forbidding the people of all "nations to carry any kind of merchandise into "Spain: the words of Grotius, in the relation he has "given of this affair in his Belgic History *, are very "full and express; 'per edictum,' says he, 'vetant 'populos quoscunque ullos commeatus resve alias in 'Hispaniam ferre; si qui secus faxint, ut hostibus 'faventes vice hostium futuros.' This placart they "publicly notified to all kings and nations, for this "reason, as the historian expresses it, 'ne quis in- 'scitiam excusaret.' The consequences of this no- "tification deserve also our attention; the historian "continues: 'paruit rex Galliæ, ac si quis suorum 'sex intra menses in Hispaniam naviget, professus 'est privatum periculum fore.' Henry the Fourth, "at that time king of France, though delivered then "from all his distresses, and arrived at the summit "of all his power, scrupled not to submit to this pla- "cart, and gave up the interests of all his subjects, "who should attempt within six months to transgress "it: the historian concludes, 'cæteri (reges) silen- 'tio transmisere.' †

* *Grotii Hist. Lib.* 8. † *Lord Liverpool's Discourse.*

The energetic note delivered by his Majesty's commissioners to the American ministers, last year, appears to have contemplated the possibility of our being placed in such a situation, in consequence of the acquiescence of neutrals in the orders for the blockade of the British islands, issued by the French Government, from Berlin, on the 21st of November last, as would justify his Majesty in issuing "orders "to his cruisers to adopt towards neutrals any hostile "system to which those neutrals should have sub-"mitted from his enemies." The note observes that "in those orders the French government seeks to "justify or palliate its own unjust pretensions, by "imputing to Great Britain principles which she ne-"ver professed, and practices which never existed. "His Majesty is accused of a systematic and general "disregard of the law of nations, recognized by "civilized states, and more particularly of an unwar-"rantable extension of the right of blackade: where-"as his Majesty may confidently appeal to the world, "on his uniform respect for neutral rights, and his "general and scrupulous adherence to the law of "nations, without condescending to contrast his "conduct in these particulars, with that of his ene-"my; and with regard to the only specific charge, it "is notorious, that he has never declared any ports "to be in a state of blockade, without allotting to "that object a force sufficient to make the entrance "into them manifestly dangerous.

" By such allegations, unfounded as they are, the " enemy attempts to justify his pretensions of confis- " cating, as lawful prize, all produce of English in- " dustry or manufacture, though it be the property " of neutrals ; of excluding from his harbours every " neutral vessel which has touched at any port of his " Majesty's dominions, though employed in an in- " nocent commerce ; and of declaring Great Britain " to be in a state of blockade, though his own ports " and arsenals are actually blockaded, and he is un- " able to station any naval force whatever before any " port of the United Kingdom.

" Such principles are in themselves extravagant, " and repugnant to the law of nations ; and the pre- " tensions founded on them, though professedly di- " rected solely against Great Britain, tend to alter " the practice of war among civilized nations, and " utterly to subvert the rights and independence of " neutral powers. The undersigned cannot there- " fore believe that the enemy will ever seriously at- " tempt to enforce such a system. If he should, " they are confident that the good sense of the Ame- " rican government will perceive the fatal conse- " quences of such pretensions to neutral commerce, " and that its spirit and regard to national honour, " will prevent its acquiescence in such palpable vio- " lations of its rights, and injurious encroachments " on its interests.

" If

" If, however, the enemy should carry these threats " into execution, and if neutral nations should, con- " trary to all expectation, acquiesce in such usurpa- " tions, his Majesty might probably be compelled, " however reluctantly, to retaliate in his just defence, " and to issue orders to his cruizers to adopt towards " neutrals any hostile system to which those neutrals " shall have submitted from his enemies. The Com- " missioners of the United States will therefore feel, " that, at a moment when his Majesty and all the " neutral nations are threatened with such an exten- " sion of the belligerent pretensions of his enemies, " he cannot enter into the stipulations of the present " treaty without an explanation from the United " States of their intentions, or a reservation on the " part of his Majesty in the case above-mentioned, " if it should ever occur.

" The undersigned, considering that the distance " of the American government renders any imme- " diate explanation on this subject impossible, and " animated by a desire of forwarding the beneficial " work in which they are engaged, are authorized by " his Majesty to conclude the treaty without delay.

" They proceed to the signature under the full " persuasion that before the treaty shall be returned " from America, with the ratification of the United " States, the enemy will either have formally aban- " doned, or tacitly relinquished, his unjust preten- " sions, or that the government of the United

" States,

" States, by its conduct or assurances, will have " given security to his Majesty that it will not sub- " mit to such innovations in the established system " of maritime law; and the undersigned have pre- " sented this note from an anxious wish that it " should be clearly understood on both sides, that " without such abandonment of his pretensions, on " the part of the enemy, or such assurances or such " conduct on the part of the United States, his " Majesty will not consider himself bound by the " present signature of his Commissioners to ratify " the treaty. or precluded from adopting such mea- " sures as may seem necessary for counteracting the " designs of his enemy whenever they shall occur, " and be of such an extraordinary nature as to re- " quire extraordinary remedies."

It is now nearly one year since this public official notice has been given to the United States of the conduct which his Majesty would feel himself authorized to pursue, in the event of the system of the enemy not being resisted by America. That country, therefore, cannot plead being taken by surprize, if after the Berlin orders of confiscation and blockade have, with the acquiescence of neutrals, been rigorously enforced in the various states of Europe which the fortune of war has placed under the power of the French Government, his Majesty should now adopt " such measures, as may seem ne- " cessary for counteracting the designs of his ene- " my," by issuing orders for seizing and bringing in

all

all vessels engaged in commerce with any countries under the dominion or control of France.

The last and most important precedent, deserving our consideration, is the convention (already noticed) entered into by Holland with Great Britain, in 1689, to prohibit totally the commerce of neutral powers with the enemy. We may answer all arguments against our following it, as the objections of the northern powers to the convention itself were answered, by adverting to the circumstances this country is placed in by the conduct of France, " and the mighty strength of that ambitious power, " which, if some extraordinary effort is not made, " will bring mankind under its subjection." *

It is to be hoped that the various discussions which have been entered into with America and other neutral nations, the repeated applications from the different mercantile interests to government during the last and present war on matters respecting navigation and trade, and the acknowledged difficulties under which the country labours in consequence of neutral encroachments, must have pro-

* " Puffendorf, who owed his employments to one of the " northern crowns, was of opinion in this case against them, and " thought that the convention might be justified."—See *Lord Liverpool's Treatise.* Puffendorf's sentiments are detailed by Sir W. Scott in his judgment on the Swedish Convoy. *Robinson's Adm.* Rep. vol. 1. p. 351.

duced

duced a conviction in the minds of the leading men of the four administrations which have been in office during the present war, (however they may differ as to the particular measures to be adopted,) that, under our present extraordinary circumstances, extraordinary remedies are necessary. May they cordially co-operate on the great point of asserting the maritime rights of their country!

It would not be difficult to shew that, in conducting the war on maritime principles, with a view to British objects only, Britain may reasonably expect a more successful termination to the conflict than she could hope for, when allied with feeble or faithless governments, whom she must subsidize during war, and consult in making peace. The First Consul's opinion, that England could not cope, single handed, with France, will, we may trust, be abundantly confuted, in a war which, it is probable, must now be carried an against confederated Europe, and possibly against America also.

The acquisitions of Great Britain in former wars, appear to be peculiarly important, in a military point of view, for prosecuting a maritime war. Gibraltar, Malta, the Cape, Ceylon, and various other foreign ports, are now of inestimable value, both as means of defence and aggression. Great Britain herself, lying alongside the Continent, is enabled from her position to employ her resources more effectually for the annoyance of the enemy, than she otherwise

could do. In the consideration of the advantages which this position affords her, she will probably not overlook her ancient rights of dominion in the British channel, a station, over which the crown of England has, from very remote antiquity, always asserted a special jurisdiction: a jurisdiction which is, to the full, as justifiable as that asserted by Denmark over the passage of the Sound, or that claimed by Turkey over the Dardanelles.

Let the government model our maritime code after the precept contained in two lines, which are ~~inscribed~~, or said to be ~~inscribed,~~ on the great gun at Dover Castle, called Queen Elizabeth's pocket piece:

> "If you'll load me well, and keep me clean,
> "I'll carry a ball to Calais green:"

And that code will, most assuredly, prove sufficient for the maintenance of British rights, not only in the Narrow Seas, but on the main ocean.

It will be seen by the annexed accounts respecting the trade of Great Britain with the United States *, that the only article imported, the loss of which would be of material consequence to Great Britain, is cotton; but, if the Americans should be prevented from exporting it to France, there can be no doubt that enough of it will find its way into this country. It is sufficient to remark, with respect to the export of British manufactures to the United States,

* *See Appendix, No. 1.*

States, that it almost wholly consists of indispensable articles of dress, which they will not be able to procure from any other country. These accounts are important in other points of view: they shew the great accommodation which the commerce of the United States has given to the belligerent powers, opposed to Great Britain, by supplying them with colonial produce. The extension of this trade has been created by the wants of those belligerents, and cannot, upon any principle of commercial reasoning, be ascribed to the natural progress of an accustomed trade. Previously to the late war, the domestic produce exported from the United States exceeded the foreign merchandize very considerably. The former was to the latter

In	1784	as	9 to	1
	1791	as	4 to	1
	1792	as	3 to	1
	1793	as	3 to	2*
	1794	as	162 to	168†

In every subsequent year of the war the export of domestic produce fell below that of foreign merchandize. After the peace, the export of domestic produce predominated; and in 1805 the export of foreign merchandize was again the highest; and in the year ending on the 30th October, 1806, the

* The rule of 1756 enforced, this year.

† The rule of 1756 relaxed, this year.

exports of foreign merchandize was 60,828,236 dollars.*

A consideration of the various means of pressure on the enemy, which the adoption of the measure recommended would produce, would extend these observations to an unwarrantable length: but one very probable result must be adverted to—the destruction of the French cotton manufactures; which have, for some years, nearly superceded the use of woollen manufactures, and depend entirely for their support on the importation of the raw materials from neutral states. The extracts from Chaptal's work on Chemistry, and from the Moniteur †, (and many more on the same subject might have been collected,) will shew the anxiety of the French government to encourage a manufacture which employs 200,000 persons, and produces annually goods to the amount of 160,000,000 livres (about £.7,000,000. sterling).

* See *Mr. Marryatt's evidence before the Committee on the West India Trade*, p. 18. The other accounts respecting the trade and shipping of the United States, are taken from statistical tables, published last year at Washington, under the title of *Economica*.

† *See Appendix No. 2.*

APPENDIX, No. I.

A Classic Summary of the value of the Exports of domestic produce from the United States, during the year ending on the 30th Sept. 1803, and the two following years.

The Sea.—2,635,000 dollars.

1. *Fisheries:*		
Dried fish, or cod fishery — —	1,620,000	
Pickled ditto, or river fishery (herring, shad, salmon, mackarel) —	560,000	
Whale (common) oil and bone —	280,000	
Spermaceti oil and candles — —	175,000	
		2,635,000

The Forest—4,820,000.

2. Skins and furs (Indian product)	500,000	
Ginseng (raw product of forest) —	100,000	
		600,000
3. *Product of wood:*		
Lumber, (boards, staves, shingles, hewn timber, masts, &c.) —	2,800,000	
Oak bark, and other dyes —	225,000	
Naval stores (tar, turpentine, pitch, rosin,) — — — —	460,000	
Ashes, pot and pearl — —	735,000	
		4,220,000

Agriculture—32,995,000.

4. *Product of animals:*		
Beef, tallow, hides, live cattle —	1,145,000	
Butter and cheese — —	585,000	
Pork, pickled bacon, lard, (live hogs)	1,890,000	
Horses and mules — —	460,000	
Sheep — — — —	55,000	
		4,135,000
5. *Vegetable food:*		
Wheat, flour and biscuit —	9,310,000	
Indian corn and meal — —	2,025,000	
Rice — — — —	2,455,000	
All other (rye, oats, pulse, potatoes, apples, &c. — — —	290,000	
		14,080,000

Produce continued.

Tobacco — — — — —		6,230,000
Cotton (at 18 to 45 cents.) — — —		7,920,000
Flax seed — — —	465,000	
Hops — — — —	90,000	
Wax — — — —	60,000	
Poultry, hemp, flax, &c. — —	15,000	
		630,000

MANUFACTURES—1,655,000.

6. Soap, candles, boots, shoes, &c.	395,000	
Hats — — — —	18,000	
Of grain (spirits, beer, starch, &c.)	21,000	
Of wood (including furniture, coaches, &c.) — — —	210,000	
Cordage, canvas, linseed oil —	50,000	
Of iron—pig-iron — —	26,000	
bar-iron — —	18,000	
castings — —	6,000	
nails, &c. — —	21,000	
Various items — — —	16,000 *	
		790,000

7. Of foreign materials, viz.

Spirits (of molasses) — —	481,000	
Sugar refined — — —	18,000	
Chocolate — — —	4,000	
Gunpowder — — —	38,000	
Of brass and copper — —	6,000	
Medicinal — — — —	18,000	
		565,000
Uncertain — — — — — —		300,000
	Dollars	42,105,000

Summary of domestic produce exported in 1804 *and* 1805.

	1804.	1805.
Product of the Sea —	Dollars 3,420,000	— 2,884,000
the forest — —	4,630,000	— 5,261,000
Agriculture — —	30,890,000	— 31,562,000
Manufactures —	2,100,000	— 2,525,000
Uncertain — —	430,000	— 155,002
	41,470,000	— 42,387,002

* There is some error in this column: its total amount is 781,000.

Extract from the Statement of Exports from 1st Oct. 1805, to 30th Sept. 1806, from the ports of the United States of America *.

Produce of the United States —	Dollars	41,253,727
Foreign produce — — — —		60,233,236
Savannah (estimated) — — —		2,250,000
	Dollars	103,736,963

West India Produce.

Sugar — — — —	pounds	106,249,397
Ditto clay'd — — — —		39,378,637
Coffee — — — — —		47,001,662
Cocoa — — — — —		6,846,758
Cotton — — — — —		1,833,187
Molasses — — — — —		13,798

Cotton, Sea island — — — —		6,096,080
Georgia — — — —		29,561,380

Report of Treasury Department,
24th Feb. 1807.

* See Appendix to the Report on the Trade with the West India Colonies, p. 83.

An Account of the Number of Seamen, Tons of Shipping, Imports, and Exports, of the United States, in the following Years.

Years.	SEAMEN.	TONS, *Merchant Vessels on which duties were collected.*	IMPORTS *including Emigrants stock, furniture, &c.*	EXPORTS *		
				Foreign merchandize exported.	*Domestic produce exported.*	*Total Exports.*
			Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
1784	18,000	250,000	11,000,000	1,150,000	9,000,000	10,150,000
1790	25,000	486,890	17,500,000	1,800,000	14,200,900	16,000,000
1791	28,000	502,698	19,000,000	3,799,202	14,600,000	18,399,202
1792	30,090	567,628	22,000,000	5,945,568	15,060,500	21,005,568
1793	33,060	627,670	26,000,000	10,591,788	15,420,000	26,011,783
1794	39,900	628,617	34,000,000	16,843,625	16,200,100	33,043,725
1795	45,000	747,964	48,000,000	29,791,506	18,064,050	46,855,856
1796	51,500	831,900	68,000,000	47,040,076	20,024,021	67,064,097
1797	60,200	876,912	52,000,000	27,042,039	24,052,671	51,294,710
1798	62,300	893,329	63,000,000	33,335,998	27,991,413	61,327,411
1799	63,500	920,000	79,500,000	45,123,335	33,142,187	78,665,522
1800	64,000	972,000	71,800,000	39,120,877	31,840,903	70,971,780
1801	65,000	947,576	88,900,000	46,642,723	46,377,792	93,020,515
1802	63,000	1,003,002	73,000,000	35,774,971	26,182,173	71,957,144
1803	63,000	1,107,323	56,000,000	13,585,073	42,205,961	55,800,033
1804	64,000		80,000,000	36,231,597	41,477,479	77,699,074
1805	66,000	1,443,453	96,000,000			95,000,000

* In the exports the column of totals does not correspond with the two preceding columns: but the errors do not appear to be material, except in the year 1795, in which the total exports should be 47,855,556.

An Account of the official Value of Imports and Exports, and of the gross Duties on Importation and Exportation, in the year ending on the 5th Jan. 1806.

Countries.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.		Total of British Manufactures and Foreign Merchandize exported.	Gross duties on Importation.	Gross duties on Exportation.	Total gross duties.
		British Manufactures.	Foreign Merchandize.				
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Foreign Europe	10,008,649	9,097,452	8,566,227	17,663,681	3,995,302	199,287	4,194,590
British Europe	3,374,654	2,678,444	1,342,238	4,020,682	81,574	14,596	96,170
All Europe	13,383,284	11,775,899	9,908,465	21,684,364	4,076,876	213,883	4,290,760
Asia	6,672,160	1,442,753	195,847	1,638,601	743,275	96,068	839,343
New Holland	153	25,825	4,815	30,641	142	1,623	1,765
Africa	105,971	542,778	438,011	980,790	16,908	13,076	29,984
Cape of Good Hope	5				7		7
Sierre Leone	867	8,093	2,567	10,661	267	141	408
America	9,615,161	11,208,986	954,931	12,163,917	4,800,192	284,557	5,084,750
Total	29,177,605	25,004,337	11,504,639	36,508,976	9,637,670	609,350	10,247,021
Amount of prize goods	1,167,023	The value of prize goods exported £779,958 is included under the head of the respective countries, to which they have been sent.			141,806		141,806
Grand Total	30,344,628	25,004,337	11,504,639	36,508,976	9,779,477	609,350	10,388,828

An Account of the official Value of Imports and Exports, and of the gross Duties on Importation and Exportation, in the year ending the 5th Jan. 1806, *distinguishing the countries in America.*

Countries.	Value of Imports.	Value of Exports.			Gross Duties.		
		British Manufactures exported.	For Merchandize.	Total.	On Importation.	On Exportation.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
United States	1,568,211	6,669,939	276,236	6,946,175	792,743	158,489	951,232
British Colonies *	293,515	668,596	196,767	865,363	49,341	16,651	65,993
British West Indies	5,765,509	3,066,398	377,831	3,444,229	3,377,422	88,401	3,465,824
Conquered Islands ‡	1,434,353	419,829	66,979	486,806	470,705	15,368	486,074
Foreign West Indies	172,319	162,244	22,650	184,894	24,143	1,512	25,656
Bay of Honduras	83,777	27,935	3,713	31,648	23,564	1,032	24,597
Louisiana	198,344	189,874	10,715	200,590	51,624	3,072	54,697
Nootka Sound		4,097	37	4,134		18	18
Southern Fishery	99,130	73		73	10,646	10	10,657
Total	9,615,161	11,208,986	954,931	12,163,917	4,800,192	284,557	5,084,750

* Hudson's Bay, Newfoundland, Canada, Cape Breton, Prince Edward's Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia.

‡ Demerara, Surinam, St. Lucia, Tobago.

An account of the official value of Imports into Great Britain from the United States; and of Exports from Great Britain to the United States in the year ending 5th Jan. 1806, *distinguishing the principal articles of import or export.*

Imports from the United States.	£
Coffee	19,271
Cotton—United States	911,155
British Plantations	1,222
(not otherwise described)	28,295
Deer-skins half-drest	14,378
Fustic	11,445
Mahogany	14,261
Rice	57,517
Staves under 36 inches	883
36 and under 50	42,108
50 and under 60	2,250
Sugar	10,168
Tar	38,442
Tobacco	168,156
Turpentine	74,984
Wheat-flour	20,601
Totals (including other articles)	1,568,211

Exports to the United States. — British Manufacture.	£
Cottons and linens printed	302,848
not printed	1,036,654
manufactures	336,798
muslins	61,158
white cottons	511,640
Hardware	154,105
Iron (wrought)	138,715
Linens, plain 6d to 18d per yard for the bounty	112,297
others	91,027
Silk, pieces	52,459
sewing	82,087
Stockings, thread and cotton	92,066
Thread	54,488
Watches (silver)	20,553
Woollens coloured	2,328,286
drapery	87,642
stuffs	55,720
stockings	71,637
flannel	50,802
kerseymere	20,809
short cloths	41,877
blanketing	38,896
£	6,669,939

Foreign Merchandize.	£
Irish linens, 6d to 18d per yard	118,377
above bounty	82,094
Piece goods of India—Calicoes	19,951
muslins	1,834
prohibited	17,139
Saltpetre	21,394
£	276,236

An Account of the official Value of Exports from Great Britain to the Continent of Europe, for the 7 years ending 5th Jan. 1806, *distinguishing each year and the particular branches of Exports on which there was any considerable diminution or increase.*

		1799	1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805
British produce and Manufactures	Cottons and Linens	£ 1,507,669	£ 2,772,518	£ 3,674,849	£ 4,531,060	£ 3,629,447	£ 3,890,012	£ 4,598,281
	Woollens	1,321,972	1,821,1[illegible]	1,758,80[illegible]	2,683,935	1,493,141	1,617,289	1,442,661
	Refined Sugar	275,041	1,051,321	889,181	1,404,697	1,481,002	1,002,490	1,018,092
	Other Articles	1,438,927	1,871,162	1,793,199	2,552,881	1,499,791	1,700,686	2,038,420
	Total	4,543,608	7,516,123	8,116,031	11,172,573	8,154,381	8,210,470	9,097,454
Foreign Merchandize	Coffee	1,963,094	4,246,361	3,783,381	3,978,548	1,876,812	2,887,997	2,540,236
	Raw Sugar	576,491	1,552,342	1,291,250	2,394,627	1,527,559	766,386	754,719
	Piece Goods of India	1,370,632	2,151,86[illegible]	1,834,311	2,266,289	2,022,021	1,926,220	1,314,595
	Tobacco	260,953	515,130	431,209	425,035	292,421	220,295	120,450
	Other Articles	1,608,437	2,350,775	2,068,821	2,989,731	1,741,696	1,739,463	1,660,745
	Total	5,779,607	10,814,471	9,409,573	12,054,223	7,460,509	7,540,361	6,390,745
Total of Brit. and For. Merchandize		10,323,215	18,330,599	17,525,604	23,226,796	15,614,890	15,750,831	15,488,199

APPENDIX, No. 2.

L'une des conquêtes les plus utiles que nous ayons faites pendant la révolution est d'avoir naturalisé parmi nous les machines à filer le coton. Dans tous les points de l'empire il s'est formé des établissemens ou l'on emploie ces machines. Ce n'était pas tout que d'être parvenu à filer, il fallait encore posséder des manufactures de tissage; ce but est en grande partie atteint: nous avons déjà un grand nombre de fabriques ou l'on tisse parfaitément la perkale, le basin, le pique, la mousselinette: il s'en forme d'autres, ou l'on s'occupe avec succès de la fabrication du calicot, si necessaire à nos manufactures de toiles peintes. Il y a dans la seule ville de St. Quentin et dans les environs huit mille métiers en activité. La prohibition des marchandises étrangeres de coton que vient d'ordonner le gouvernement ne contribuera pas peu a nous faire obtenir le résultat si desirable de fabriquer nous mêmes la totalité des articles dont nous avons besoin. Qu'il nous soit permis de faire ici quelques reflexions sur la preférence que nous donnons au coton dans nos habillemens: cette préférence a causé les plus grands maux à notre industrie; elle a detruit nos manufactures de petit lainage, où tout était profit pour nos, puisque nous recueillons dans notre territoire la matiere premiere; elle a

porté

porté un coup funeste à nos manufactures de toiles de chanvre et de lin, de linons, de batistes, qu'elle a privées d'une grande partie de leurs débouchés; enfin elle a diminué considérablement la consommation de nos étoffes de soie, genre d'industrie dans lequel nous l'emportons sur les autre nations, soit par la beauté des couleurs, soit par la variété et la perfection du travail. L'administration ne s'est point dissimulé ces inconveniens, et elle n'a rien négligé pour y parer : mais qu'opposer au torrent de la mode? Ne pouvant empêcher l'usage du coton, elle a dû chercher les moyens de le rendre le moins ruineux possible pour l'etat; elle a fait les dépenses nécessaires pour procurer à nos manufactures les meilleures machines et gagner ainsi la main d'œuvre. Ce n'est pas exagérer que de dire que la consommation du coton exige une somme annuelle de 150 à 160 millions : les femmes ne s'habillent presque qu' avec des etoffes dont cette matiere est le principe; les hommes en consomment beaucoup pour gilets, cravates, et habillement du matin; on s'en sert pour les rideaux de croisée et de lit; on en fait des couvertures, des bas, des bonnets, des mouchoirs, des schals, des chemises, et même des draps. Que résulte t-il d'un pareil etat de choses? il faut envoyer à l'etranger des sommes considerables pour acheter la matiere premiere. Si une guerre maritime se déclare, il survient des circonstances qui ruinent ou paralysent une foule d'ateliers : le coton augmente de valeur ou devient rare; et, dans les deux cas, les manufactures éprouvent une crise. A la paix, les inconveniens ne

sont

sont guere moindres : la matiere premiere baisse ordinairement de prix ; et alors il faut que le fabricant éprouve une perte qui est plus ou moins considérable suivant son approvisionnement.

Moniteur, 25 *Sept.* 1806.

Les fabriques de toiles de St. Quentin se divisent maintenant en deux branches d'exploitation distinctes ; les toiles tissues en fil, et les toiles tissues en coton. Il y a trois ans que la ville de St. Quentin cherche à concentrer dans ses murs la fabrique des toiles de coton : quatre belles filatures qui occupent neuf cents personnes et filent jusq'au numero 100 s'y sont élevées en très-peu de tems ; un nombre considérable de maisons de commerce s'est empressé de faire manufacturer les basins, parkales, mousselines, piqués, calicots, et généralement toutes les toiles dont l'Angleterre avait le monopole en Europe. Depuis le décret du 22 février dernier, cette fabrication devient de jour en jour plus importante : on y emploie déjà prés de huit mille métiers ; et, avant peu, le seul arrondissement de St. Quentin donnera un produit annuel d'environ 300,000 pieces, qui ne laisseront rien à desirer rélativement à la main d'œuvre, et pour lesquelles la concurrence étrangere ne sera pas à craindre. *Notices sur les objets envoyés á l'exposition des produits de l'industrie nationale.* *Moniteur*, 28 *Sept.* 1806.

M. M. Demailly, de Lille ; Roussel et Bailly de Commines ; Roussel, Grimonporez, Alexandre Decresme, de Roubaix ; Gombert et Woussen, de Houplines ;

lines; Alexandre Duquesne, de Valenciennes; Desurmont freres, Louis Desurmont et Compagnie, de Tourcoing; Lolliot et Gauthier Duhen, de Douai; et Roch Cicquefer, de Cambrai; présentent des echantillons de fil de coton depuis les numero 25 jusqu'au numero 155: ce fil, que l'on obtient par les machines dites *mull-jennis*, et par celle à filature continue, est employé presqu'en totalité par les fabriques de tissues du département. *Notices sur les objets, &c. Moniteur*, 14 *Oct.* 1806.

La ville de Roubaix possede une fabrique considerable de nankins, nankinets, creponis, satinades, et autres étoffes de coton, fabrique qui a remplacé celle des calmandes, prunelles et satins turcs en laine. On fait aussi des nankins, nankinets, creponis et satinades dans les communes de Lille, Turcoing, Launoy, Seclin, Vaucelles et Cambrai. D'autres communes établissent des étoffes de coton dans d'autres genres. (Here follows a long list of persons, who have sent specimens of cotton manufactures). M. Decremé, de Roubaix, envoie en outre des echantillons d'une étoffe de coton qu'il a nouvellement inventée, et à laquelle il a donné le nom de *Napoline*. *Ibid.*

Il s'est fait une amelioration très-sensible dans la fabrication du coton depuis la derniere exposition.

Les filatures se sont multipliées, les manufactures de basin et de piqué se sont étendues; les étoffes de

ce

ce genre qui ont été presentées à l'exposition, sont généralement plus réguliérement fabriquées et mieux apprêtées. Le public, qui les a examinées avec interêt, a pu se convaincre de leurs belles qualités ; il est douteux que l'on fabrique mieux en aucun pays du monde.

A l'époque de l'an 10, la fabrication de la mousseline était si peu avancée en France, qu'il n'en parut à l'exposition qu'une seule piece digne d'être distinguée ; il arriva même que le jury n'eut pas assez de confiance dans son origine pour en parler : aujourd'hui cette partie se présente sous l'aspect le plus prospere ; la fabrique de Tarare produit en grande quantité des mousselines très-belles ; dans le seul arrondissement de Saint-Quentin, huit mille métiers sont en activité, tant pour fabriquer des basins que pour faire des mousselines ou des perkales et des calicots, deux genres de tissus qui ne different de la mousseline qu'en ce que les fils qu'on y emploie sont d'un moindre degré de finesse : cet arrondissement peut produire à lui seul, près de trois cent mille pieces par an.

Les calicots français commencent à devenir si abondans, et sont si bien fabriqués que les manufactures de toiles peintes n'auront plus à regretter les calicots Anglais. Le chef d'une célebre manufacture de toiles peintes, dont le témoignage est infiniment respectable, nous a assuré que, pour l'emploi dans ses ateliers et pour le bon usage, les calicots français vont de pair avec ceux d'Angleterre; et que les acheteurs les plus

exercés et les plus difficiles ne sauraient y appercevoir de différence qui soit au désavantage des nôtres.

La fabrication des velours de coton est également dans une situation heureuse.

De tous côtés, il s'établit des fabriques de nankin, qui donnent lieu d'espérer que cette étoffe, d'une consommation populaire, et par conséquent très-étendue, pourra un jour nous être entierement fournie par le travail de nos compatriotes.

Les manufactures de coton forment donc, dès-à-présent, une branche très-importante de l'industrie française ; elles occupent une grande place dans notre commerce : elles nous affranchissent d'un tribut que nous avons payé jusqu'ici à une nation rivale : sous tous les rapports, elles sont dignes de la protection du Gouvernement. *Rapport du Jury chargé d'examiner les produits de l'industrie française mis à l'exposition de* 1806, *presenté a S Exc. M. de Champagny, ministre de l'interieur. Moniteur*, 25 *Nov.* 1806.

La bonneterie de coton a fait des progrès sensibles : de toutes parts on a présenté des bas de coton de la plus grande beauté, exécutes avec un soin et une élégance qu'on ne connaissait pas autrefois ; il est aujourd'hui prouvé par le fait, que, dans ce genre, comme dans celui des tissus, nos fabricans peuvent égaler les fabricans Anglais.

243. M. Lensumey-Camusat, de Troyes.

Soutient à des prix modérés la concurrence avec ce qui se fait de plus beau en bas de coton : il obtint en l'an 10 la médaille d'argent ; et le jury la lui aurait décernée cette année, s'il ne s'était pas fait la regle de ne point la donner deux fois à un manufacturier pour le même objet.

244. La manufacture de Grillon, près Dourdan.

A présenté des bas d'une grande finesse, et fabriqués dans la perfection.

Le jury ne peut qu'applaudir à la décision qui décerna une médaille d'argent à cette manufacture en l'an 10.

245. MM. Coutan et Couture, place du Chevalier du-Guet, à Paris,

Ont présenté divers ouvrages fabriqués avec beaucoup de soin, et qui réunissent toutes les qualités desirables : ces habiles fabricans ont beaucoup contribué, par d'heureuses innovations, aux progrès que la bonneterie de coton a faits en France ; la fabrication du tulle leur doit aussi quelques perfectionnemens.

Le jury s'applaudit d'avoir à rendre témoignage au talent de M. Coutan, qui obtint, des l'an 9, la medaille d'argent de deuxieme classe.

Le jury arrête qu'il sera fait mention honorable de la bonneterie présentée par les fabriques et les fabricans dont les noms suivent :

246. Fabrique de bas de Liancourt.

Cette manufacture a présenté des bas de diverses qualités, tous trés-bien faits.

Son dépôt est place du Chevalier-du-Guet, chez MM. Coutan et Couture, associés de la fabrique.

Nota. La bonneterie n'est pas le seul genre de fabrication établi à Liancourt ; il s'y est formé, par les soins de M. de la Rochefoucault, une filature, une manufacture de calicots, et une fabrique de cardes. Tous les objets qui en sortent sont d'excellente qualité; et, sous tous les rapports et dans tous les genres, les établissemens de Liancourt méritent la confiance et l'estime publiques.

247. M. Enos, de Rouen,

Qui a présenté des bas blancs d'une belle qualite, et des bas chinés avec goût, d'une grande finesse et d'un prix modéré.

248. M. Aigoin, de Nines,

Qui a envoyé des bas tres-fins, d'un blanc parfait et d'un prix modéré.

249 M. Judson, de Bruxelles,

Pour des bas à côtes très-beaux.

250. M. Forcht, de Strasbourg,

Pour des bas très-beaux.

251 La fabrique de Châlons-sur-marne,

Qui a envoyé des bas dans les qualités communes,

et

et essais dans le très-fin, qui annoncent l'activité et la bonté de cette fabrique. *Rapport du Jury, &c. Moniteur*, 28 *Nov.* 1806.

Machines a filer le coton.

420. M. Pouchet (Louis E.), de Rouen,

A présenté un filoir continu à double rang de broches de chaque côté, étagées et distribuées de maniere à occuper la moitié moins de place que dans les continues ordinaires.

M. Pouchet obtint une médaille d'or à l'exposition de l'an 10.

421. M. Albert (Charles), faubourg Saint-Denis, n° 69, à Paris,

A présenté au concours une série complette de mécaniques à filer le coton.

1°. Des carderies *brisoire* et *finissoire*, mues par engrenage, sans cordes ni poulies; des vis sont employées d'une maniere heureuse pour régler les chapeaux;

2°. Un laminoir à quatre systêmes; cette mécanique mue par engrenage, dans toutes les parties, n'est point sujette aux irrégularités des moteurs à poulies et à cordes;

3°. Une boudinerie à quatre lanternes qui produit une épargne de main-d'œuvre dans cette préparation;

4°. Une boudinerie à ailettes ou systême continu préparant le boudin pour la filature en gros et remplaçant à la-fois les lanternes et le bobinage;

5°. Une filature en gros ou en doux, dite *Strescher*, systême *Mul-Jenny*;

6°. Une filature en fin, même systême, avec un moteur-hydraulique;

7°. Une filature continue, systême Trossel, pour les nos 30 à 50, et un autre pour les nos 80 à 180 *, pour chaine.

Le jury a vu, dans les mécaniques présentées par M. Albert, une parfaite exécution, la réunion de tous les perfectionnemens connus et quelques améliorations propres à M. Albert.

Le jury décerne à M. Charles Albert une médaille d'or.

422. M. Calla, rue du Faubourg Poissonniere, aux Menus-Plaisirs,

A présenté,

1°. Une carde finissoire, dont le tambour délivrant est en cuivre, et conserve la forme cylindrique mieux que ceux en bois: les douves du grand tambour sont faites du même métal, et arrangées de maniere qu'on peut faire usage de garnitures de cardes dont les crochets n'auraient pas la même longueur, ou remplacer partiellement par des planches neuves celles qui se trouveraient hors de service;

2°. Une mécanique à filature continue de quatre-vingt broches à filer fin pour chaine, et dont les broches sont placées de maniere que la transmission du tors se fait à chaque révolution jusqu'aux cylindres de tirage, sans être interrompue par la pression du fil contre le fonds du guide; ce qui prévient la rupture des fils, et facilite la filature en très-fin;

3°. Une mécanique *Mul-Jenny*, de cent douze broches, destinée à filer fin pour trame ; elle est construite d'après les meilleurs principes et avec le plus grand soin.

M. Calla s'est depuis long-tems mis au rang des constructeurs de machines les plus utiles aux manufactures, et dont les travaux contribuent le plus aux progrès de notre industrie.

Le jury lui décerne une médaille d'or.

423. MM. Klarck et André, d'Havré, près Mons, département de Jemmappe,

Ont présenté une série de broches pour mécaniques à filer la laine et le coton, faites avec soin et d'un prix modéré.

MM. Klarck et André ont formé un établissement en grand, où ils font deux mille broches par semaine par des moyens simples et ingénieux qui abrégent et perfectionnent la main-d'œuvre.

Une pareille manufacture ne peut qu'être trés utile aux établissemens de filature.

Le jury décerne à MM. Klarck et André une médaille d'argent de premiere classe.

424. M. Pelluard, à Liancourt,

Obtint, en l'an 10, une médaille de bronze equivalente à une medaille d'argent de 2e classe, pour la bonne fabrication des cardes. Il en a exposé cette année, que le jury a vues avec satisfaction ; elles sont parfaitement fabriquées, et ne peuvent qu'accroître

l'estime dont jouissent depuis longtems les cardes de Liancourt.

425. M. Augustin Corbillez, de Nonancourt, département de l'Eure;

426. MM. Hache et Bourgois, de Louviers;

427. M. J. Valsch, d'Orléans, actuellement à Paris, rue du Battoir, n° 5, près le Jardin des Plantes;

428. M. Scrive, de Lille;

Ont présenté des cardes remarquables par le bon choix du cuir, par la qualité des fils de fer et des fils d'acier, par la régularité dans la distribution des crochets, et par l'intelligence avec laquelle la hauteur du coude est proportionnée à l'épaisseur du cuir.

Le jury leur décerne à chacun une médaille d'argent de 2e classe.

429. M. Delafontaine fils aîné, directeur associé de la filature de Lescure, près Rouen,

A présenté une machine à filature continue, composée d'un petit nombre de broches destinée à filer pour chaîne dans les nos de 80 à 100.

M. Delafontaine a eu pour objet de faire connaître,

1°. Une nouvelle maniere d'enter les cylindres de tirage, qui est plus solide, et qui donne les moyens de remplacer les collets sans changer les cylindres;

2°. Un moyen de soustraire la bobine à l'action de la broche, à fin de pouvoir plus facilement en régler la résistance, suivant la finesse du fil ;

3°. La forme qu'il conviendrait de donner à la denture des roues d'engrenage, pour obtenir plus d'uniformité dans le mouvement.

Le jury a pris l'idée la plus favorable des connaissances de M. Delafontaine dans la mécanique, et de son aptitude pour perfectionner les machines à filer le coton: il lui a décerné une médaille d'argent de 2e classe.

Le jury arrête qu'il sera fait mention honorable des fabricans dont les noms suivent:

430. M. Andrieux, mécanicien, Place-Royale, n° 24, à Paris ;

Carde finissoire et *Mul-Jenny* pour filer en fin; ces deux machines sont très-bien exécutées.

431. M. Caillon, mécanicien, rue Saint-Martin, n° 82, à Paris,

Machine propre à canneler les cylindres pour filature.

Nota. Il avait aussi exposé des barres de fer dressées à la varlope et dignes d'être remarquées.

432. M. Maquennhem, d'Escarbotin, département de la Somme,

Cylindres cannelés, pour filature et carderie, construits sur d'excellens modeles; ce mécanicien dis-

tingué a monté des ateliers pour fabriquer ces objets en manufacture, et au meilleur marché possible; c'est un véritable service qu'il rend aux filatures.

433. MM. Bouché oncle et neveu, quai Pelletier, no 33, à Paris,

Cylindres cannelés, broches, roues d'engrenage et supports pour filatures; le tout très-bien exécuté.

Ces messieurs avaient aussi exposé des outils de tout genre, de très-bonne qualité.

434. M. Perjel, de Besancon,

Cylindres cannelés pour filature, fabriqués avec soin. *Rapport du Jury, &c. Moniteur*, 4. *Dec.* 1806.

Extract from the Introduction to a Work entitled *Chimie appliquée aux arts, par M. I. A. Chaptal*, published this Year.

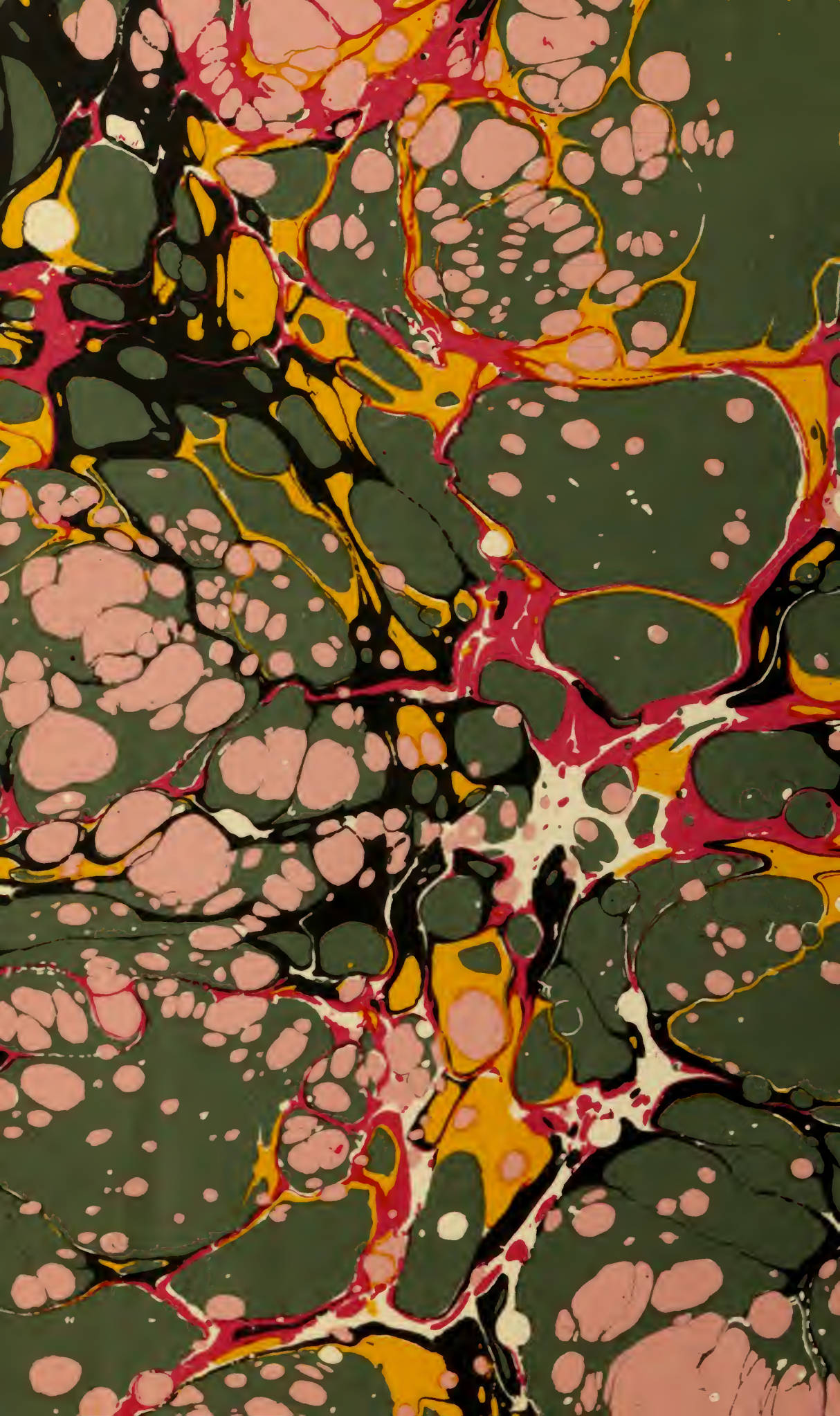
Le gouvernment Français doit s'occuper essentiellement des manufactures de laine, de soie, de lin, de chanvre, de la distillation des vins, de la fabrication des poteries, et de tons les objets dont le sol lui présente avec abondance les matières premieres. Ce n'est que par une interversion déplorable de cet ordre de choses qu'on l' a vu encourager, il y a un demi-siecle, les fabriques de coton, sans penser que le sort de ces établissemens nourris par des matières du dehors, alloit être livré à toutes les chances des révolutions, a toutes les intrigues des cabinets, à toutes les variations des loix sur les douanes, et que les

fabriques,

fabriques, essentiellement territoriales, souffriroient d'autant plus de cette concurrence, que, pour encourager, multiplier et raffermir ces établissemens naissans, il falloit accorder des primes, prohiber l'entrée des produits analogues, et tourner, vers cette industrie vraiment exotique, tous les capitaux, toutes les lumières, et tous les bras.*

* Je ne parle que de ce qu' on auroit dû faire il y a cinquante ans. Aujourd'hui que les fabriques de coton forment une branche considérable de notre industrie, aujourd'hui que les travaux sur le coton occupent à-peu-près deux cent mille individus, le gouvernement doit, sans doute, les porteger. Mais, a-t-il été d'une sage politique de les fixer en France? Leur introduction n' a-t-elle pas nui aux fabriques, essentiellement nationales, de drap, de soie, de lin, etc? Le gouvernement n' eût-il pas mieux fait d' appliquer ses encouragemens à ces dernières fabriques, et de laisser à nos rivaux les fils et les tissus de coton, comme moyens d' échange contre les produits de notre industrie et de notre sol? Voilà la question.

16th Nov. 1807.

T. Burton, *Printer*, 31, *Little Queen-street, Holborn.*

1974.25